

**CO-OSSIFICATION OF AXIS VERTEBRA WITH THIRD CERVICAL.**

BY EDWARD BANCROFT.

Last summer, while in the neighborhood of Media, I found the skeleton of a young dog. It was in excellent condition, being cleansed by the rain and bleached by the sun. The epiphyses on the distal end of the femur were present and the sutures were well defined in the skull. I secured the head together with the axis and atlas vertebrae. On reaching home and carefully examining the bones, my attention was first called to what seemed to be an abnormally long axis vertebra with four transverse processes. On closer examination I found the supposed anomaly to consist of the normal axis vertebra firmly and inseparably ossified with the third cervical which may be thus described in detail:—

Centrum normal, anterior end firmly ossified to posterior end of axis; transverse processes normal, also foramen for intervertebral artery; neural arch divided, antero-posterior on the summit, division passing to right of neural spine of which a mere rudiment, 1 mm. high, is left; postzygapophyses normal; prezygapophyses, especially on the right side, firmly ossified to the postzygapophyses of the axis. On the left side ossification is complete but not so prominently marked as on the right side where the corresponding zygapophyses are obliterated.

The case is probably one of abnormal development, as an injury to the animal tending to produce such effect would have resulted in death.